

2019 FOOTBALL GUIDE ISSUE

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COACH G'S Q&A  
COACH BIRD'S Q&A  
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Photo by Rob Havens '88



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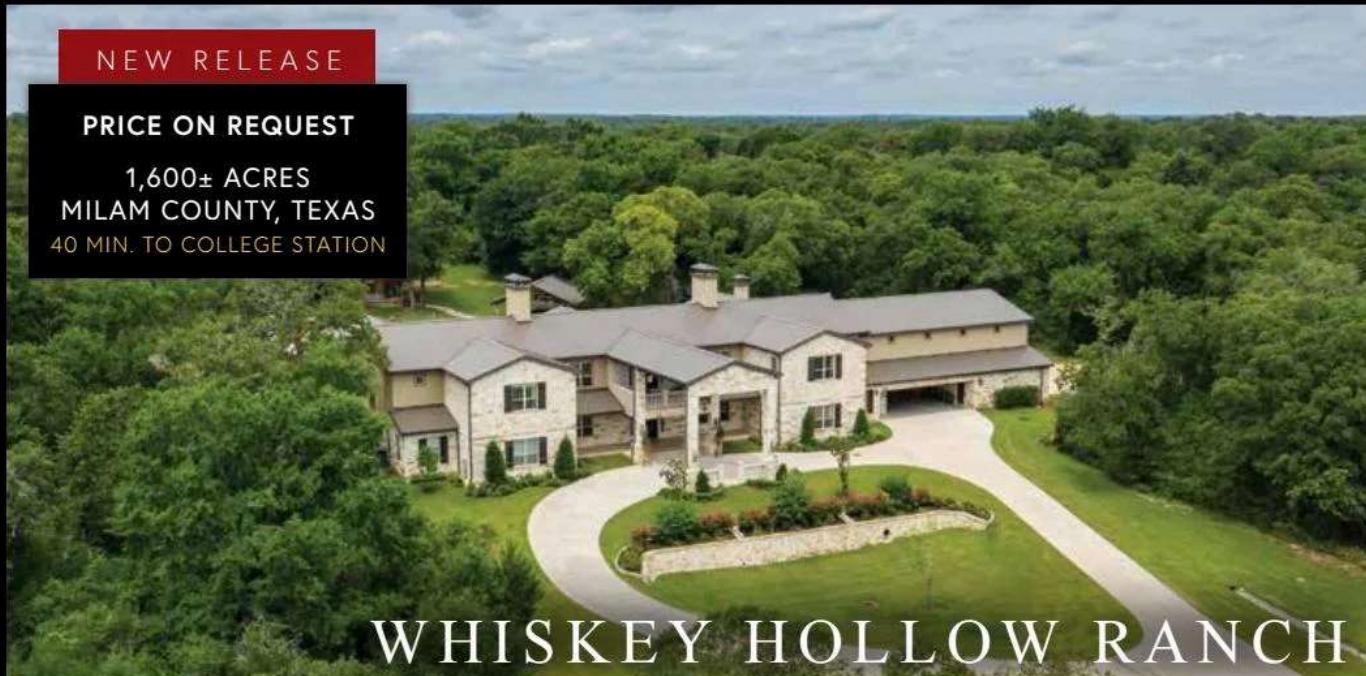
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# Howdy Ags!

Are you ready for some football? The excitement level is at an all-time high as we prepare to begin this season. Year two under Jimbo finds the team bigger, stronger, faster and more knowledgeable of Coach Fisher's system. Kellen Mond is ready for a "Mond"ster season, and this team has worked hard through the grind of summer workouts and fall camp to lead into the first game. The Aggies have the toughest schedule in the country, as they will face the top three teams in the polls. Jimbo says he is excited for the challenge. The Aggies will venture into "Death Valley" for the second game of the season versus the number one team in the land and the defending national champion: the Clemson Tigers. The Aggies will host #2 Alabama who was runner-up last year and is motivated to get back to the top of college football. They will go on the road and play against #3 Georgia "Between the Hedges." Finally, after the toughest gauntlet in college football, they will roll into Tiger Stadium for a rematch with the blood thirsty Tigers for a rematch of last year's incredible game. If that doesn't get your blood pumping, I'm not sure what will.

The team is ready, and expectations are high as the Aggies come into the season ranked #11 in the coaches' poll. Coach Fisher believes consistency is the key for this team to have success this year. The Aggies have a talented roster they just have to all come together to make it happen this season. The leadership council approached the team about everyone getting off of social media during fall camp so they could dial in on the job at hand. It sounds like everyone has bought in, so now its time to hit the field and go to work. Inside this issue you will find a breakdown of the different position groups and a preview of all 12 teams we play this fall.

We also got to sit down with Coach G from Aggie Soccer as he shared his thoughts on this year's team. It sounds like he has a great team coming back, and opponents should fear his returning squad.

Coach Bird of Aggie Volleyball gave us an inside look at her new club. She is excited to see what they will do in year two of her program.

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Gig'em Ags!

*Rob '88*



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# Aggieland

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**PUBLISHER/EDITOR**  
Rob Havens '88  
[rob@aggiemag.com](mailto:rob@aggiemag.com)  
**979.229.8046**

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
Sarah Pyatt '14

**COPY EDITORS**  
Chelsea O'Neal Sweat '17  
Daniel Sweat

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Sarah Pyatt '14

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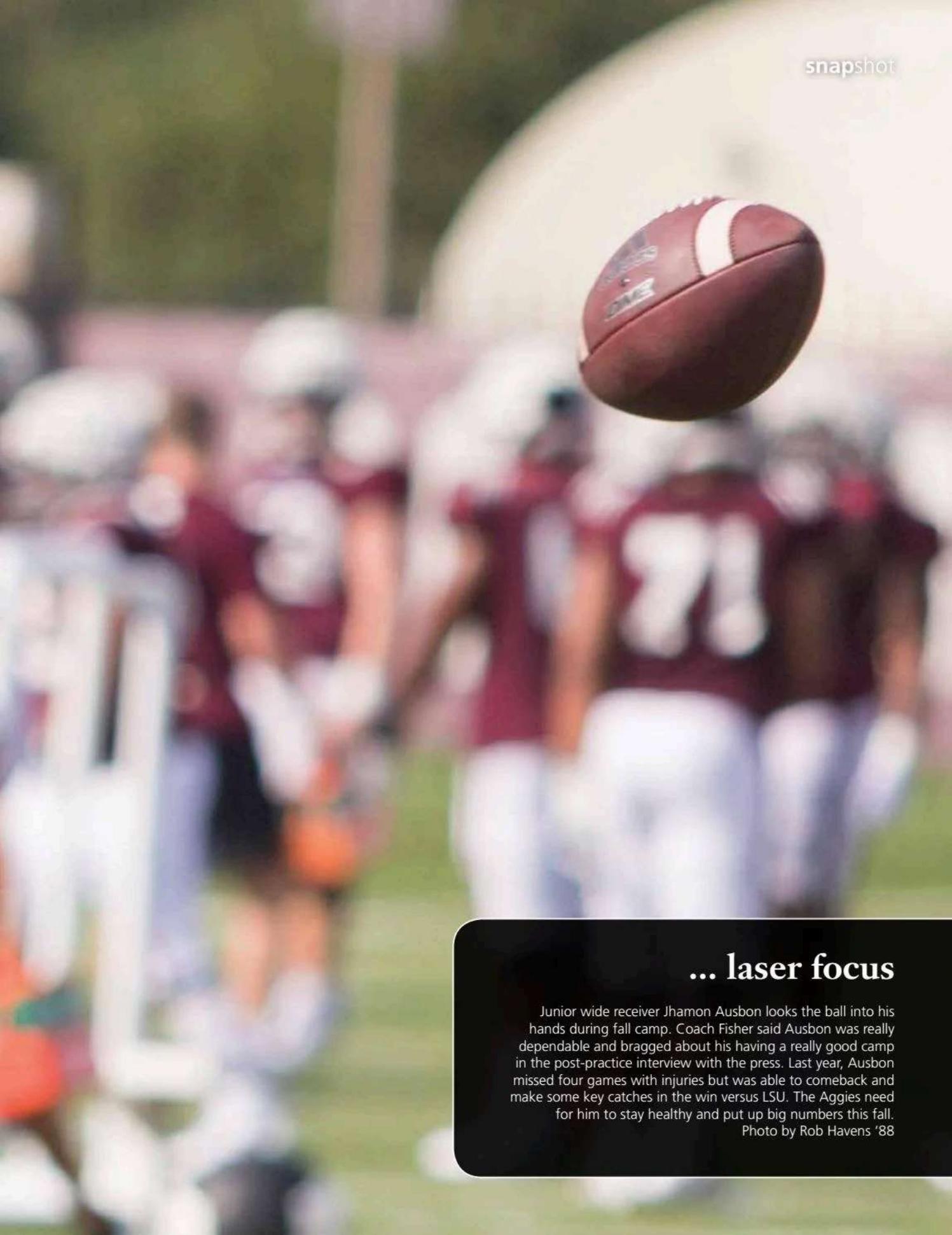
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## **... laser focus**

Junior wide receiver Jhamon Ausbon looks the ball into his hands during fall camp. Coach Fisher said Ausbon was really dependable and bragged about his having a really good camp in the post-practice interview with the press. Last year, Ausbon missed four games with injuries but was able to comeback and make some key catches in the win versus LSU. The Aggies need for him to stay healthy and put up big numbers this fall.

Photo by Rob Havens '88

snapshot





## ... cooling off

The Aggies have faced intense, hot and humid days during fall camp. Sophomore running back Jashaun Corbin takes a few seconds between drills to try to cool down. Jimbo couldn't be more pleased with the effort from this talented back from Rockledge, Florida. Corbin changed his commitment from Florida State when Jimbo came here and couldn't be happier with his decision. He will be the Aggies' number one back this fall and has shown he can do it all: rush, block, catch the ball out of the backfield and return kickoffs. His play may be too hot to handle!

Photo by Rob Havens '88

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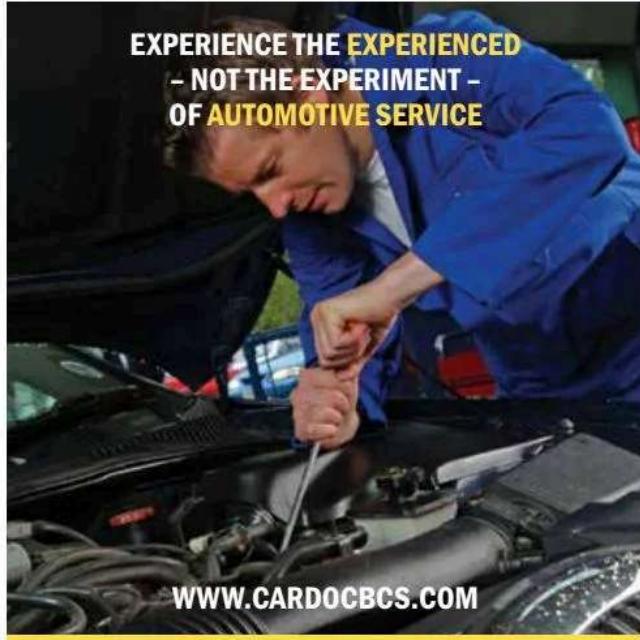
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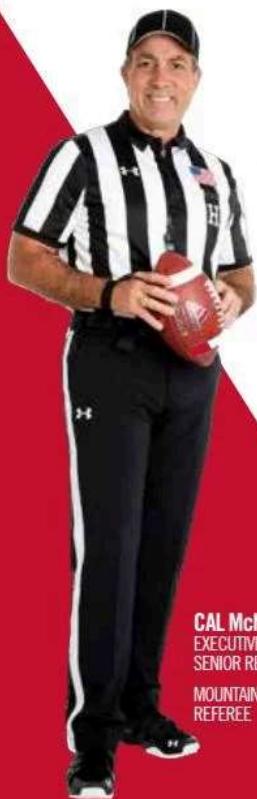
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## COACH, AS WE APPROACH THE 2019 SEASON, YOU HAVE BEEN RECEIVING A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OPPONENTS WE WILL FACE AND YOUR GAME PLAN FOR THE SEASON. WE WANT TO ASK ABOUT ANOTHER OPPONENT, THE ONE THAT YOUR FAMILY HAS FACED FOR THE LAST 8 YEARS: FANCONI ANEMIA.

### WHAT IS FANCONI ANEMIA?

Fanconi anemia (FA) is a rare genetic DNA repair disease that leads to bone marrow failure, leukemia, and/or other cancers. FA occurs almost equally in males and females and is found in all ethnic groups. The likelihood of a child being born with FA is about 1 in 131,000 in the U.S., with approximately 31 newborns diagnosed each year.

*My youngest son, Ethan, was diagnosed with FA in 2011.*

### WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE WHEN ETHAN WAS DIAGNOSED?

It felt like my life had ended. The world stopped. Everything we read about FA was grim. There was so little hope. Life expectancy was in the early 20's, and the likelihood of developing cancer was exceptionally high (Patients with Fanconi anemia are more than 200,000 times more likely to get cancer). But when we met Dr. Margaret MacMillan and the team of Fanconi anemia researchers, we began to have a sense of hope.

### WAS IT THAT HOPE THAT LED TO THE CREATION OF KIDZ1ST FUND?

Without a doubt! As we learned more about the research and began to fund the research projects directly so that the doctors and scientists weren't spending time filing grants and waiting for approvals, the results came quicker. Candi, Ethan's mother, realized we had an opportunity to use my platform as a head coach to share our story and to make a difference, so we created Kidz1st Fund. The opponent had been identified, and we had one mission to improve the quantity and quality of life

for all of those facing Fanconi anemia, knowing that we will one day have a cure.

### HOW IS ETHAN DOING? WE SEE HIM RUNNING OUT WITH THE TEAM ON GAMEDAYS...

Ethan is doing great! He is bigger than life and full speed ahead. He just started 8th grade and will be playing basketball and lacrosse again. And, of course, he's hunting and fishing as much as he can. We take him every March for his annual bone marrow biopsy in addition to the quarterly blood checks he has, and everything looks good. He is holding steady which is great news.

He will be running out of the tunnel with shorter hair this year. This was his second time to grow it out and donate it. This past cut went to Children With Hair Loss.

### INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THEIR OWN BUSINESS AND SUCCESSES TRADITIONS HEALTH WANTED US TO SHARE THIS STORY ON KIDZ1ST, DOES THAT SURPRISE YOU?

Not at all. As soon as Bryan heard our story, he had Kirstin, our director, come to the office so he could learn more about what we were doing and why. They have been supporting Kidz1st since before the office was even officially moved to Aggieland. Bryan and the team at Traditions Health are a great example of when I say the secret to A&M are the people. They are always willing to help no matter what the situation. It is a special place.

Just thinking back on this past year with David and Julia Gardner celebrating the 30th Anniversary of David Gardner's Jewelers to benefit Kidz1st to the Student Council at Pecan Trail hosting a fundraiser

for us and our team swabbing to enter the bone marrow registry – it has been absolutely unbelievable. I am thankful to be here and a part of something so special. I can tell you that.

### WHAT ARE SOME FINAL THINGS YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT KIDZ1STFUND?

That 100% of what is donated goes to research. Not a single penny is spent on overhead or expenses. When we say every dollar makes a difference, it actually does.

That in the past 8 years over 9.5 million dollars has gone directly to research. And that research is making a difference TODAY not only for FA kids but also for so many other diseases too.

That we have added more than 6,000 people, including the A&M Football Team, to the National Bone Marrow Registry through our work with Be The Match. If you are between the ages of 18-44 you can join by visiting [Join.BeTheMatch.Org/GIGEM](http://Join.BeTheMatch.Org/GIGEM).

That we are seeing that quality and quantity of life for FA Patients improving day by day. Life expectancy has risen over 11 years since we founded Kidz1st, thanks to research.

And that at our annual research meeting in March of last year we heard the words we have dreamed of hearing – **that we are closing in on a cure**. That was the greatest feeling I have ever had and we wouldn't be here without so many helping.

We will win this fight against Fanconi anemia, and I can't wait until that is what this Q&A is about.



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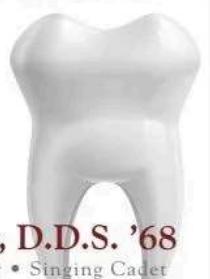
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# FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2019

BY: ROB HAVENS '88



## 2018 RECORD

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Oh what a difference a year makes! Last summer, there was a lot of uncertainty about what the Aggie football team could do in the 2018 season. Even Jimbo admitted he wasn't sure what he had until they hit the field and the lights came on.

Entering fall camp, the Aggies had two talented quarterbacks battling for the starting nod. The offense had been remodeled from a spread to a pro-style offense, and the defense had been overhauled by the new defensive coordinator, Mike Elko.

Under Sumlin, the Aggies were cool. Recruits would come to practices and hear rap music blaring over the loud speakers and players dancing between drills. The team had the reputation of fading late during the year and not being able to get over the eight-win plateau. Even players on the team confessed that there were accountability issues with a lot of the players.

Then in the spring, Coach Fisher uttered the prophetic phrase, "It ain't gonna be like it use to be!" He rallied the team and changed the culture of our program. Jimbo saw the evolution happening, but he didn't know how they would respond to all the changes until they started playing games.

The Aggies opened last season with an expected blowout win over Northwestern State. Surprising many Aggie fans, Fisher chose Kellen Mond to be his starter. He had told the media that the guy that won the job would be the one that won the team.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 29	VS. TEXAS STATE
SEP. 7	@ CLEMSON
SEP. 14	VS. LAMAR
SEP. 21	VS. AUBURN
SEP. 28	VS. ARKANSAS
OCT. 12	VS. ALABAMA
OCT. 19	@ OLE MISS
OCT. 26	VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE
NOV. 2	VS. UTSA
NOV. 16	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA
NOV. 23	@ GEORGIA
NOV. 30	@ LSU

The turning point of the program came in game two as the Aggies welcomed #2 Clemson onto Kyle Field. Under the lights and with a huge national audience watching on TV, the Aggies stood toe-to-toe with the eventual national champion. Although the Ags didn't come out with the win, they proved they could compete against the best. The team earned the respect of experts around the nation and even their opponents, as Clemson Tiger safety tweeted this summer "Texas A&M by far the best team we played last year."

The Aggies went on to get over the hurdles that had tripped them up in the past. There was no late season slide, as the team won their last four games. They finally beat LSU in what could be called one of the greatest games in program history. And they finished off the season with a big win in a Florida Bowl game!

Now, it's time to turn the page and focus on the upcoming season. Kellen Mond goes into the season with a firm grasp on the starting job. He had an outstanding season last year and is confident he will be the best quarterback in the SEC this year. He shared that belief with the media at SEC Media days this summer in Alabama. Backing up Mond is true freshman Zach Calzada, who turned heads in the spring, James Foster and Connor Blumrick.

Trayveon Williams' early departure left a huge hole in the Aggie backfield, but the team has a great stable of backs hungry to fill that spot. Jashaun Corbin returns for his sophomore season and runs with power and speed. Freshman Deneric Prince took advantage of his snaps in the spring game to show what he can do. Jacob Kibodi also returns and will be in the mix in the backfield. Unfortunately, Coach Fisher announced that Vernon Jackson will be out this season due to a neck injury.

Mond lost one of his biggest weapons as tight end Jace Sternberger was drafted by the Packers in NFL Draft. Fisher was able to sign one of the nation's premiere tight ends in 6'6 245 lbs Baylor Cupp. He was an early enrollee, and with a productive spring under his belt, he looks to give the Aggies another big target on offense. Competing with Cupp for the starting gig will be Sophomore Glenn Beal, who matched the talented freshman in this year's spring game. The tight end position looks to be a very productive part of this year's team.

On the offensive line the Aggies have to replace two starters from last year's

squad. Center Erik McCoy was the first Aggie to be drafted, and Keaton Sutherland graduated. The Aggies key returners are Ryan McCollum, Dan Moore, Carson Green, Jared Hocker, Colton Prater and Luke Matthews. New five star incoming freshman Kenyon Green is already making waves and should compete for playing time.

In the spring, the Aggie wide receiving corps was limited in practice sessions, but hopefully a restful spring along with good summer and fall camps will produce big numbers from the wide outs. Quartney Davis, Kendrick Rogers and Jhamon Ausbon headline this talented group. All three made huge plays for the Aggies last year and are hungry to have record-setting years. With a year under his belt, don't be surprised if Manvel product Jalen Preston makes the highlight reel for the Ags this fall.

Switching to the defensive side of the ball, we come to the strongest and deepest position on the team: the defensive line. Preseason All SEC list returner Justin Madubuike anchors this group that must fill the void left behind by the graduation of Dayton Mack. 6'4 325 lbs Bobby Brown, III is a big body guy that can fill holes, and newcomer Demarvin Leal is already getting rave reviews and should see the field early on. Returning players Jayden Peevy and T.D. Moton will create havoc against the running game too.

On the edges, Michael Clemons' name kept coming up at SEC Media days, as the talented senior hopes to have a breakout year after recovering from an injury-plagued 2018. On the other side Tyree Johnson hopes to build on the solid campaign that he had last year.

The Aggies' biggest concern may be at linebacker after losing Tyrel Dodson and Otaro Alaka. Fortunately, Anthony Hines, III & Ikenna Okeke return this fall after missing last year to injuries. Aaron Hansford moved over from wide receiver and led his team in tackles during the maroon and white game. 6'2 228 lbs. Buddy Johnson returns with the most experience from last year's squad. Keeath Magee, II, Braden White and Andre White will compete for playing time.

The defensive back corps should be much improved after a year in the Elko system. On the corners, Charles Oliver and Debione Renfro return as upper classmen. However, Myles Jones and Travon Fuller will battle them for the starting job. At nickel, redshirt senior

Roney Elam and Clifford Chattman should both see playing time. Junior college transfer Elijah Blades and freshman Brian Williams, both newcomers to the team, are elite talents and were not recruited to sit on the bench. Don't be surprised to see them making plays this fall.

At safety, Leon O'Neal Jr. is fired up to have a break out year. Derrick Tucker, Larry Pryor and Keldrick Carper will compete for playing time at strong safety.

Punter Braden Mann returns this fall after receiving the Ray Guy Award for the 2018 season. The kid is a flat out game changer, as he was able to flip the field in several games last year. He will be dropping bombs this fall after he had the honor of representing A&M at SEC Media Days this summer.

Roshauud Paul will be handling the punt and kick return duties again for Texas A&M. After two years acclimating himself to the college game he is just one missed tackle away from showing our fans what made him Mr. Texas Football in high school. Jashaun Corbin showed he has the speed and moves to change games after his kick return for a touchdown vs Arkansas last year. Look for him to seek a repeat of that this fall.

Seth Small returns for his sophomore season as our place kicker. Forced into the spotlight after an injury to Daniel LaCamera last year, Small made 20 of 28 field goals and was 34 for 34 on extra points. Newcomer Caden Davis joins the team and will fight for a starting spot during fall camp. He showed off his big leg this summer, kicking a 76-yard field goal on Kyle Field on the 4th of July.

The excitement level is at an all-time high in Aggieland after the glimpse we got to see last year. The Aggies will be better this year, but they have an even tougher schedule. They are scheduled to play the top three teams in the country this year. #1 Clemson in S. Carolina, #2 Alabama in College Station and at #3 Georgia! Mix in a top ten LSU squad, and it could be the toughest schedule in the country. We proved we could play with the best last year, and with Jimbo as our coach we know we can do it again this year.

**GAME 1**

# TEXAS STATE

The Aggies open the season against a familiar Head Coach. In an ironic twist of events, former offensive coordinator Jake Spavital will have his first game as a head coach on the opposite sideline that he roamed for three years. Spav was well liked at A&M, but unfortunately, he will always be tied to the Kyle Allen/Kyler Murray fiasco. He takes over a program that ranked last in scoring and yardage in the Sun Belt Conference last year. The Bobcats' new offensive coordinator, Bob Stitt joined the team and brought his quarterback with him. Gresch Jensen threw for over 2,500 yards under Stitt and looked good in the spring, putting him in a great position to start this fall. State's defense was decent last year, and if they can generate some more points with Spav's fast paced offense, they could become bowl eligible this season. The Cats only won three games last year, the Ags should roll in this one.



## 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 29	@ TEXAS A&M
SEP. 7	VS. WYOMING
SEP. 14	@ SMU
SEP. 21	VS. GEORGIA STATE
SEP. 28	VS. NICHOLLS STATE
OCT. 10	VS. ULM
OCT. 26	@ ARKANSAS STATE
NOV. 2	@ LOUISIANA
NOV. 9	VS. SOUTH ALABAMA
NOV. 16	VS. TROY
NOV. 23	@ APPALACHIAN STATE
NOV. 30	@ COASTAL CAROLINA

**GAME 2**

# CLEMSON

We get the defending national champs in game two this year. We got a taste of quarterback Trevor Lawrence last year, but it was Kelly Bryant who led the Tigers to the close win against us. Lawrence has a big arm and is a potential Heisman Trophy candidate. Clemson returns four starters on their offensive line. The Tigers have three stud running backs led by junior Travis Etienne who ran for over 1,600 yards and 24 touchdowns last year. Wide receivers Justyn Ross and Tee Higgins combined for 9 catches, 234 yards and two touchdowns in the lopsided win over Alabama last year, and they are back for more. Clemson did lose seven defensive starters from last year's talented team, but defensive coordinator Brent Venables has developed plenty of talented players behind them that are ready to shine. Clemson won 15 games last year and the closest margin was to A&M. No moral victories this year; the Ags want this one for real.



## 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 29	VS. GEORGIA TECH
SEP. 7	VS. TEXAS A&M
SEP. 14	@ SYRACUSE
SEP. 21	VS. CHARLOTTE
SEP. 28	@ NORTH CAROLINA
OCT. 12	VS. FLORIDA STATE
OCT. 19	@ LOUISVILLE
OCT. 26	VS. BOSTON COLLEGE
NOV. 2	VS. WOFFORD
NOV. 9	@ NC STATE
NOV. 16	VS. WAKE FOREST
NOV. 30	@ SOUTH CAROLINA

## GAME 3 LAMAR

Texas A&M returns home to face the Lamar Cardinals in week 3 of the season. The Cardinals are coming off one of the best seasons in program history. Dual threat quarterback Jordan Hoy leads the team after the Cardinals made it to the NCAA FCS Playoffs last year for the first time ever. They return 10 starters on offense and four on defense, but they've lost their entire secondary from last year's squad. Daniel Crosley was selected as a preseason All-Southland Conference first teamer at defensive end. Myles Wanze earned second team selection honors as the leading returning rusher for the team. Mike Schultz is in his third year as head coach for the Cardinals. In only his second year with the team he was able to produce one of the biggest turnarounds in the country. After a 1-4 start and last place in the league, they won six in a row to finish third and earn a spot in the playoffs. This team is resilient and eager to show last year was no fluke.



### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 29	VS. BETHEL
SEP. 7	VS. MISS. VALLEY STATE
SEP. 14	@ TEXAS A&M
SEP. 21	@ SE LOUISIANA
SEP. 28	VS. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
OCT. 5	VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN
OCT. 12	@ SAM HOUSTON STATE
OCT. 19	VS. UIW
NOV. 2	VS. CENTRAL ARKANSAS
NOV. 9	@ NORTHWESTERN ST.
NOV. 16	@ HOUSTON BAPTIST
NOV. 23	VS. MCNEESE

## GAME 4 AUBURN

This series has been unique, in that the visiting team has always been the victor, until last year. The Aggies didn't put the Tigers away, and they came from behind and ended the streak of visiting team wins. The Aggies welcome Auburn into Kyle Field for our first conference game. Signal caller Jarrett Stidham left early, and now Gus Malzahn has to choose between junior Malik Willis, redshirt freshman Joey Gatewood and true freshman Bo Nix. Gus has a healthy stable of running backs led by last year's leading rusher JaTarvious "Boobie" Whitlow. The wide receiving corps should be better this year with another year of experience under their belt. The offensive line returns all five starters. The defense will field one of the best defensive lines in the country backed up by an experienced secondary. The Tigers always give the Aggies fits, and this season won't be any different. Because we play them early on, maybe the Aggies can take advantage of a new starting quarterback that isn't in sync yet.



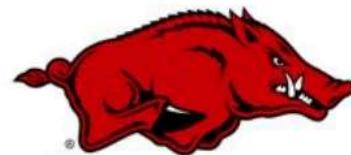
### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. OREGON
SEP. 7	VS. TULANE
SEP. 14	VS. KENT STATE
SEP. 21	@ TEXAS A&M
SEP. 28	VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE
OCT. 5	@ FLORIDA
OCT. 19	@ ARKANSAS
OCT. 26	@ LSU
NOV. 2	VS. OLE MISS
NOV. 16	VS. GEORGIA
NOV. 23	VS. SAMFORD
NOV. 30	VS. ALABAMA

# GAME 5

# ARKANSAS

Beating the Hogs has become one of A&M's favorite traditions. Although Arkansas only won two games last year, the Hogs gave us all we could handle in a game that Jimbo Fisher said was our worst performance of the year. As if this game needed any more spark to it, the transfer of Nick Starkel has taken care of that. Starkel may or may not be the starter as he will have some major catching up to do over the summer and fall camp to get up to speed on Chad Morris' offense. Former apprentice at SMU Ben Hicks also has his eyes set on the prize of leading this team and has the benefit of having played under Morris before. He was the leading contender after spring ball. The Aggies will also see another familiar face in the backfield as former Aggie running back Rakeem Boyd leads the Hogs in rushing. The defense dominated the offense over the spring, which is a good sign in some ways. Arkansas fans want to beat the Aggies in the worst way, and this game is always a tough one. The Hogs are young and the Ags are even better. Let's keep the tradition going!



## 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. PORTLAND STATE
SEP. 7	@ OLE MISS
SEP. 14	VS. COLORADO STATE
SEP. 21	VS. SAN JOSE STATE
SEP. 28	VS. TEXAS A&M
OCT. 12	@ KENTUCKY
OCT. 19	VS. AUBURN
OCT. 26	@ ALABAMA
NOV. 2	VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE
NOV. 9	VS. WESTERN KENTUCKY
NOV. 23	@ LSU
NOV. 30	VS. MISSOURI

# GAME 6

# ALABAMA

The Tide rolls into Kyle Field on October 12th. Both teams have a bye leading into the contest, so it should be a great game. Last year the Tide had their own quarterback controversy, but this season Jalen Hurts has moved onto Oklahoma and Tua Tagovailoa is the man again in Tuscaloosa. He finished second in the Heisman Trophy voting and is focused after coming one win short of his second national championship. Bama is loaded again, and Tua has a target rich environment in wide receivers Jerry Jeudy, Henry Ruggs, III, DeVonta Smith and Jaylen Waddle. Najee Harris returns as the main ball carrier, and Brian Robinson Jr will be his backup behind a bigger and possibly better offensive line. The secondary will be the strength of the defense, as Trevon Diggs and Patrick Surtain II man the corners and Xavier McKinney and Jared Mayden line up as safeties with Shyheim Carter starting at nickel. Bama fields what could be the best linebacker in the country in Dylan Moses, and the defensive line is stacked. Same song different verse, these guys are good.



## 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. DUKE
SEP. 7	VS. NEW MEXICO STATE
SEP. 14	@ SOUTH CAROLINA
SEP. 21	VS. SOUTHERN MISS
SEP. 28	VS. OLE MISS
OCT. 12	@ TEXAS A&M
OCT. 19	VS. TENNESSEE
OCT. 26	VS. ARKANSAS
NOV. 9	VS. LSU
NOV. 16	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE
NOV. 23	VS. WESTERN CAROLINA
NOV. 30	@ AUBURN

## GAME 7 OLE MISS

The Aggies used a win over the Rebels last year to start a four game winning streak to finish the season. In the off-season we hired away their athletic director, which could add fuel to the fire. Ole Miss added Rich Rodriguez as their new offensive coordinator and Mike MacIntyre, the former Colorado head coach, as their defensive coordinator. As they try to install new systems on both sides of the ball, the Rebels are hoping to turn around a program that finished with a five game skid last year. Matt Corral, a redshirt freshman, will be under center in a new zone read offense. Scottie Phillips returns in the backfield after recovering from an injury that slowed him down in 2018. There are lots of new faces on offense too, as the Rebs only have three returning starters. On defense Ole Miss will change to a 3-4 alignment and try to recover from a squad that gave up over 36 points a game last year. Ole Miss has lots of work to do, after NCAA sanctions derailed their program.



### 2018 RECORD

OVERALL	5 - 7
CONFERENCE	1 - 7
HOME	3 - 4
AWAY	1 - 3
NEUTRAL	1 - 0

## GAME 8 MISS. STATE

The good news is Nick Fitzgerald is gone. The bad news is his replacement, Keytaon Thompson, could be just like him. Thompson's somewhat of a dual threat, known more for his running than his passing, so the Aggies will once again have to figure out how to stop the zone read. Kylin Hill joins him in the backfield and is effective rushing and catching the ball. The Dogs return their two best receivers from last year's squad in Stephen Guidry and Osirus Mitchell. State lost two starters on the line and are trying to piece together the new front. The Bulldogs had the number one total defensive team in the country last year. Fortunately for us, they only return three starters from that defense. The anchor of the defense is the returning linebacking corps of Erroll Thompson, Leo Lewis and Willie Gay Jr. Head Coach Joe Moorehead was an offensive guru before coming to Starkville. Last year he attempted to change up his offense to be productive with the kind of players he had. We shall see if he is able to go back to his bread and butter or go with what he had last year.



### 2018 RECORD

OVERALL	8 - 5
CONFERENCE	4 - 4
HOME	6 - 1
AWAY	2 - 3
NEUTRAL	0 - 1

Ole  
Miss.

### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	@ MEMPHIS
SEP. 7	VS. ARKANSAS
SEP. 14	VS. SE LOUISIANA
SEP. 21	VS. CALIFORNIA
SEP. 28	@ ALABAMA
OCT. 5	VS. VANDERBILT
OCT. 12	@ MISSOURI
OCT. 19	VS. TEXAS A&M
NOV. 2	@ AUBURN
NOV. 9	VS. NEW MEXICO STATE
NOV. 16	VS. LSU
NOV. 28	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE



### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. LOUISIANA
SEP. 7	VS. SOUTHERN MISS
SEP. 14	VS. KANSAS STATE
SEP. 21	VS. KENTUCKY
SEP. 28	@ AUBURN
OCT. 12	@ TENNESSEE
OCT. 19	VS. LSU
OCT. 26	@ TEXAS A&M
NOV. 2	@ ARKANSAS
NOV. 16	VS. ALABAMA
NOV. 23	VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN
NOV. 28	VS. OLE MISS

## GAME 9 UTSA

Texas A&M gets a break from the conference grind when the Roadrunners come to town. UTSA struggled on offense last year, dropping to the bottom in Conference USA in all the major offensive categories. The team returns all five starters from a year ago on the offensive line. Sophomore Frank Harris will be the man under center, and Brendan Brady joins him in the backfield. Tykee Ogle-Kellogg is the only returning starter at wide receiver. The defense has a 4-2 alignment and lost two of their best players via the NFL Draft and a transfer from last year. Defensive ends Jarrod Carter-McLin and Lorenzo Dantzler and tackle Baylen Baker return up front. They have both corners back from last year's defense in Junior Cassius Grady and Clayton Johnson. The team struggled with only three wins last year.



### 2018 RECORD

<b>OVERALL</b>	3 - 9
<b>CONFERENCE</b>	2 - 6
<b>HOME</b>	2 - 4
<b>AWAY</b>	1 - 5
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	0 - 0

### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. INCARNATE WORD
SEP. 7	@ BAYLOR
SEP. 14	VS. ARMY
SEP. 21	@ NORTH TEXAS
OCT. 5	@ UTEP
OCT. 12	VS. UAB
OCT. 19	VS. RICE
NOV. 2	@ TEXAS A&M
NOV. 9	@ OLD DOMINION
NOV. 16	VS. SOUTHERN MISS
NOV. 23	VS. FAU
NOV. 30	@ LOUISIANA TECH

## GAME 10 S. CAROLINA

South Carolina had an up and down season last year. They would win a game, then lose a game, then win a game. The Gamecocks could only put back-to-back wins together once, and they got hammered in their bowl game by Virginia. It seems like quarterback Jake Bentley has been there forever, as he comes into the season with 32 career starts. Bryan Edwards returns as his top-receiving target. Offensive Coordinator Bryan McClendon will be in his second year calling plays for the Cocks. They averaged 30 points a game last year. Will Muschamp will be once again be focused on his defense. He has three sophomore defensive backs – Jaycee Horn, Israel Mukuamu and R.J. Roderick – that will lead his defense. Senior veterans Javon Kinlaw and D.J. Wonnum will anchor the defensive line. Expectations were high last year as many experts predicted South Carolina would contend for the Eastern Division title, but a 7-6 tally quelled those predictions.



### 2018 RECORD

<b>OVERALL</b>	7 - 6
<b>CONFERENCE</b>	4 - 4
<b>HOME</b>	5 - 2
<b>AWAY</b>	2 - 3
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	0 - 1

### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. NORTH CAROLINA
SEP. 7	VS. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
SEP. 14	VS. ALABAMA
SEP. 21	@ MISSOURI
SEP. 28	VS. KENTUCKY
OCT. 12	@ GEORGIA
OCT. 19	VS. FLORIDA
OCT. 26	@ TENNESSEE
NOV. 2	VS. VANDERBILT
NOV. 9	VS. APPALACHIAN ST.
NOV. 16	@ TEXAS A&M
NOV. 30	VS. CLEMSON



## GAME 11 GEORGIA

The Aggies have one of the toughest final two games of any team in college football. To round out the season, they make a trip to play between the hedges in Athens before finishing up in Baton Rouge. The Bulldogs are ranked as high as #3 in the polls and are stacked with talent. Kirby Smart has quickly built them into a national contender. Looking for an extra edge on the offense, Kirby hired James Coley to be his new O.C. Jake Fromm is one of the best QB's in the country. He threw for 30 touchdowns last year with only six interceptions. He lost some great talent at receiver but brings back D'Andre Swift who ran for over 1,000 yards last season. Smart's defense is built on Monty Rice and Tae Crowder, two of the best linebackers in the conference. Backing them up is a secondary loaded with talent and a ton of experience. Tyson Campbell, Eric Stokes, J.R. Reed and Richard LeCounte roam the defensive backfield for the Bulldogs. Georgia played an uninspired game against tu in the Sugar Bowl, but you can bet Smart fixed that in the offseason.



### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	@ VANDERBILT
SEP. 7	VS. MURRAY STATE
SEP. 14	VS. ARKANSAS STATE
SEP. 21	VS. NOTRE DAME
OCT. 5	@ TENNESSEE
OCT. 12	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA
OCT. 19	VS. KENTUCKY
NOV. 2	VS. FLORIDA
NOV. 9	VS. MISSOURI
NOV. 16	@ AUBURN
NOV. 23	VS. TEXAS A&M
NOV. 30	@ GEORGIA TECH

## GAME 12 LSU

The Tigers are counting down the days for the rematch with Texas A&M. After the seven-overtime defeat and the long flight back to Louisiana that was rerouted to New Orleans due to fog, LSU is seeing blood and anxious to get back on the field on their home turf. During the off-season they swiped away our athletic director, and Coach O was verbal on the airwaves that his early victory shower on the sideline should have been for real. Quarterback Joe Burrow had a record-setting year for the Tigers and he returns with seven other starters from last year's offense. LSU also brings back six of its top seven tacklers from 2018. All American safety Grant Delpit is back after a huge year last fall, and JaCoby Stevens is back at free safety. The Tigers won 10 games last year and bring back a ton of talent. Let's just hope we can start a new tradition of beating the hell outta LSU for the last regular season game!



### 2019 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
SEP. 7	@ TEXAS
SEP. 14	VS. NORTHWESTERN ST.
SEP. 21	@ VANDERBILT
OCT. 5	VS. UTAH STATE
OCT. 12	VS. FLORIDA
OCT. 19	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE
OCT. 26	VS. AUBURN
NOV. 9	@ ALABAMA
NOV. 16	@ OLE MISS
NOV. 23	VS. AUBURN
NOV. 30	VS. TEXAS A&M

# Q&A | COACH G

## You have a lot of returning players from last year. What can we expect this year?

We are a team to fear if you are in our league or on our schedule because we do return a great deal of experience that has won at a high level. We're adding a couple of really special players to that mix. Obviously it's college soccer, so every year is different. You graduate great players every year. Luckily with this program, we bring in great players every year too. There will be a little bit of getting acclimated to the speed of play that we want to play at and the way that we want to attack and defend, but I feel pretty confident about what we have on the field.

## Can you talk about specific players that we will see on the field?

It starts with our attack and the number of attacking personalities that we have back. You have a first team All-American striker and arguably the most dangerous players in the country in Ally Watt, who will garner a lot of attention from our opponents. She could be single and double-teamed for much of the match, and how we deal with that with other people to offset and punish people for doing that will be important. One of the key newcomers we have is Taylor Ziemer, who is a transfer from the University of Virginia. She took a year sabbatical last academic year and played as an amateur in Holland, which was a great experience for her both to help her in becoming more of a citizen of the world but also living in a futbol culture. Being around soccer all the time, especially being in Holland – you can see the level of players that come out of that system. She'll come in as a very intelligent, very creative goal-scoring threat for us. Whether she's on the front line or just behind the front line, she really adds a degree of danger to our attack. Tera Ziemer can play as either an attacking central midfielder or a defensive central midfielder, and she's also played out wide, as a wide player in attacks. That is something special for us.

And you have the aspect of her and her sister now playing together. We recruited her sister out of high school, but a big reason why she is here is to be able to play with Tera. So Taylor and Tera come from a futbol family. Her father is the head-men's coach at Sonoma State. Her mother is one of the top coaches in Northern California for club teams and is a former player for Santa Clara, from their great national

powers of the 90's. It's kind of cool that we get that sister bond in our attack this year.

Asdis Halldorsdottir returns for her sophomore year. She had a great summer playing back home in Iceland. We expect her to be much more comfortable this year and much more of what we are doing upfront. The other attacking pieces are new or have been going through some rehab last year. Abby Grace Cooper had a great spring and has really done well this summer from what it looks like. She is a former Youth National Team forward that can score goals and create for us up there. And then you have Ali Russell, one of the top players in the state of Texas as a striker coming in from Katy. She graduated early and was with us in the spring. The attacking depth that we have is exciting because we are going to need it. We are going to need more than one plan. We may go as deep as Plan D to get through what some of these really talented and organized defenses are going to be.

And then we return almost all of our midfield. We've got Grace Piper and Addie McCain back; that's two All SEC Players right there. Jimena Lopez, who spent the whole summer playing with the full Mexican National Team, is back and looks great! She was a real integral part of Mexico's win over Jamaica the other day in the Pan Am games. She will arrive a couple days late coming back from the Pan Am games, but I think that's an excused absence when you are representing your country. Then you have a slew of players that are really malleable to what we need. Cienna Arrieta, who is a great athlete, can play central midfield or can play out on the left and has done both for us. She's even played on the front line, she's played on the back line, she can play almost anywhere. You've got Jenna Byers who spent the summer in Spain and is back and healthy for the first time in her career. She was the top player coming out of Oklahoma and, as a freshman, had to get through a lot of injury woes here at A&M. But she had a good spring, looks terrific in her fitness and should be in the mix for a lot of playing time this year. And then you've got new personalities this year who can play out wide on the right side. Macie Kolb played on the back line but can also play the midfield, and she got a lot of playing time last year as an outside midfielder. She plays with lots of pace and great attacking presence. One of the kids we are really excited about as a freshman is Katie Smith, out of Tulsa, who is really scary if you are playing against her.

She's fast! She's got a long, lean frame. She can play both sided. She's a real fun player to watch when she has the ball at her feet and is running forward. She's a real great penetrating player on the dribble and can get in behind defenses pretty easily. That slew of attacking talent is awesome.

Our back line has all returning players that have played for us a lot in the back. We return Karline Sample, who was arguably our best defender at the end of last year when she finally came back healthy from a knee surgery from the year before. Jordan Hill has also been a big-time player for us in the past. Briana Alston was our defensive MVP year before last. Callyn Walton who is now in her senior year, has actually already graduated and is in grad school. We feel really comfortable with the depth that we have back there with experienced players. The only big question mark we have is in goal. I have four goalkeepers this year, which is more than we've ever had. The goalkeeper position is wide open. I feel confident that any one of them will step in and do great, but it will be interesting in preseason to see who wins that competition. Jordan Burbank and Olivia Ausmus, who come back as returning sophomores and are both talented, really good leaders, and they're both really respected by the players on the team. We've got two really talented freshmen too. Shantel Hutton came in in January and played with us in the spring. She's a converted central defender who is unbelievably athletic. She has great range as a goalkeeper but is really confident with the ball at her feet. The newest one is Kenna Caldwell, who was not only the Golden Glove Award winner for her club, the Colorado Rush, she was also the offensive MVP for the same club. They would put her in goal to protect leads and then put her up front to get a lead. She's very athletic and a great kid. The compliment of goalkeepers we have is terrific. Right now it's a wide-open competition.



# Q&A | COACH BIRD

## What is the team going to look like this year?

We graduated Houser, who was our libero. Hollann (Hans) returns, and Camille (Conner) our setter will be back, which is huge! Camila will be our libero this year. She is in Columbia right now, since she plays for the Columbian national team. So she's been gone all summer. She actually had to sit out last year and serve a year in residency because she transferred from a juco. We foresee her being our libero, and just her experience and her level of play after completing nationally this summer has been huge for her. To bring that back to our gym is going to be awesome. We have a pretty solid group of younger DS (defensive specialists) liberos, so we've already been talking to them about when she gets back in the gym with us, just like absorbing all of that. You rarely get kids that have that much experience and that exposure to that level of volleyball. That's what she got to experience this summer, so that's huge for us. And then we have six freshmen. We have a good core of juniors. Samantha Sanders played a significant role for us this year on the left side. Morgan Davis, Makenna Patterson was one of our best middles and really led the charge for the middle of the group. But we have six freshmen coming in, so that's going to have a huge impact. Adding that big of a class coming in is going to make our roster look a little different. We foresee Treyaunna Rush having an impact on the right side. She is a leftie right side, so we think she will have a significant role early on. Karly Basham and CiCi Hecht – they are both going to be ball control kids and just give depth in their roles. And then we can see Lauren Davis having an impact on the left side. CiCi will give us depth on the pin also, since she played outside in club. And then Madi Bowser – she's a middle, so she is kind of young and green to the game. But she has such a great energy about her and like a good teammate, so I think while she is developing and learning she is going to be great in our gym. London Austin-Roark was one of our impact freshmen from last year, and we see her having a leadership role on this team. She has definitely developed into that. And then of course Alli Fields and Taylor Voss – their roles on the team, just as Haley Slocum, just the people they are, the players they are, the competitors they are. I just think we have a lot of good pieces. I like the numbers. We are at 17 on the roster this year, and that's an ideal number for us to be at.

## Who really stood out during the off-season that you felt had the most improvement?

Camille developed and improved throughout the fall, but in the off-season, she separated herself as our vocal leader. I mean there were times in our spring practices that she just went above and beyond and just her leadership skills developed so much. I would say the same for Haley Slocum and Hollann Hans. Like, we worked with them as a group kind of as our leaders. So I think all of them developed leadership-wise, but Camille went above and beyond with her game and in the gym as a leader. She really had a great spring.

## What did you learn throughout your first season at A&M?

It's funny, I really learned to appreciate the foundation, like who this team was. We developed a lot, and there was a lot of structure and new things that we applied. But the core of who these players and who this team wanted to be and who they became – that is what I appreciated and embraced. Not just the Aggie culture in general with A&M as a school and university and their core values but also these players as individuals and as a team what they've done and what they accomplished together already as building a foundation for the program. That was very special to me, and that was led by Amy Houser. They respected her. She pushed and she willed the team to become a unit, really. That was very special. It was cool for me to experience my first season here. We see that now with our six freshmen being on campus this summer. We can see it in the work, and we talk to our returners about that. Like, this is your program. So you guys need to be very hands on and engaged with them, and they have been, so that's really cool.

## You guys won your last four matches last year. Do you feel like you come into this season with some momentum?

Oh 100%! The way the team felt and the chemistry that was built throughout the season, and then to finish with those matches the way we did. Against LSU and the five sets and all of the ups and downs we had throughout the fall – it was huge for our team to have that. The ending that we did and that momentum even into the spring – it helps us. It really was the driving force

for them wanting to get better and really striving to develop and push each other in the gym. We are excited to get back into the gym, even since the freshmen got here. We've had our captains texting us they can't wait to get into the gym with all of us. It's a really neat environment and feel that we have right now.

## Do you think this freshmen squad that you brought in filled the holes you needed to fill?

Yes, we definitely needed depth on the pin, so that for sure is going to be significant just for the competition in the gym. They can feel it in the open gyms now, when they are just in there playing. But yeah for sure, just depth and getting the roster to the competitive size that we want. We want people to be pushing each other and competing for starting roles. And they all know that.



# REC SPORTS

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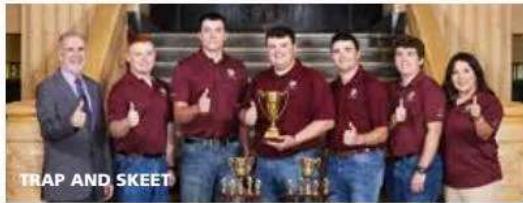
CHEER SQUAD



GYMNASTICS INDIVIDUAL



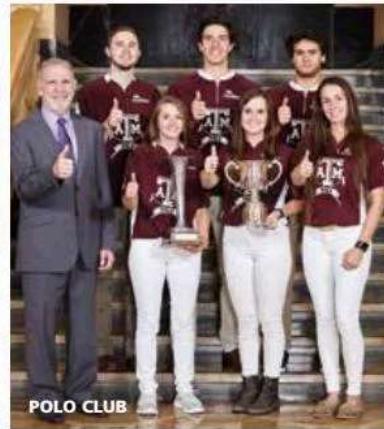
WRESTLING INDIVIDUAL



TRAP AND SKEET



GYMNASTICS CLUB



POLO CLUB



## Rec Sports

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Texas A&M Sport Clubs had an amazing year during the 2018-2019 season. Collectively, they captured 26 total National Championships. Our Aggies performed at the highest levels and earned team titles in Men's and Women's Polo, Cheer Squad, Women's Gymnastics, Women's Equipped Powerlifting, Women's Volleyball, and Archery.

Not only did the Aggies bring home the national championship hardware in several sports, but in some cases, they did it in record-breaking fashion. The Archery Team collected its 21st Overall Team National Championship, which is the most of any collegiate archery program.

Thanks to the Men's and Women's Polo teams, A&M became the first school in collegiate polo to win both national championships in back-to-back years. "Being one of now two teams to have accomplished this feat was exhilarating," said team vice president Ally Vaughn. "It's not every year you get to relive the experience of winning a national championship title with your best friends!"

Every time I put on one of our polo jerseys, I'm proud to wear the maroon and white representing Texas A&M. There isn't any other university I'd rather play for. The unity and teamwork our club portrays are unmatched."

The Cheer Squad also won the NCA Team National Championship for the second year in a row. Club president Maddie Mack told us, "The Cheer Squad has meant so much to me here at Texas A&M. Winning back-to-back national championships has been incredible. However, doing it to represent Texas A&M has been absolutely priceless. Most people don't know that A&M has a cheer team, so for us to win a huge title two times brings us recognition and puts Texas A&M out there in the competitive cheer world."

A&M's Sport Club teams captured several individual and event national championships as well, including: Wrestling's Ty-rae Carter (149 lbs. division), Meagan Harrington of Trap and Skeet winning the Female Overall National Championship, Gymnastics' Jared Micsisin winning the Men's All-Around

Championship, as well as several archery event national champions.

There are so many inspiring stories of our student athletes who overcame obstacles or came back after being knocked down to win a title. Ty-rae Carter, as a freshman Wrestling Club member, lost in the national championship in the 2017-2018 season. He battled all the way back to the title match in 2019 and defeated the guy who beat him the year before. "Winning a national championship for A&M was special to me because I am the first to ever do it, and I've still got two more years left," Carter exclaimed. "I hope to grow the sport of wrestling in Texas and compel A&M and other institutions to build high level programs."

Texas A&M Sport Clubs not only provide extracurricular activities for our students to enjoy and help them join a team where they can continue to play the sport they love, they are also fielding some of the best athletes in the country and winning championships at the highest levels.

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